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**FRESNO WOMAN INDICTED FOR STEALING FEDERAL RETIREMENT
BENEFITS INTENDED FOR HER DECEASED FATHER**

FRESNO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned an eighty-one count indictment on March 31, 2005 charging PATRICIA JEANNE DUNNE, 57, of Fresno, California, with mail fraud, wire fraud and theft of government property.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the United States Social Security Administration, Office of Inspector General, Office of Investigations, and the Naval Criminal Investigative Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Sherrill A. Carvalho, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that from about May 1, 1985 until about March 1, 2004, following her father's death in 1985, defendant DUNNE defrauded the U.S. Social Security Administration and Defense Finance and Accounting Service by allowing federal retirement benefits intended for her father to continue to be deposited into a joint bank account she shared with him.

DUNNE was arrested this morning and will make an initial appearance at 11:00 a.m. in United States District Court in Fresno, California.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of mail fraud and wire fraud is twenty years. The maximum penalty for the theft of government property count is ten years. Each count also carries a maximum fine of \$250,000.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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